



The

GARZETTE

December, 1995

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Page 1

This Month:

SKN Night	p.2
CW - Mode of Choice, Part 4	p.3
Meeting Minutes	p.5
This Old Shack	p.9
GARS Ham Of The Year	p.10
Rookie Radio	p.11
More Pickett's List	p.11
and Much, Much, Much, Much, Much, Much more...	



Happy Holidays



The PRESIDENTS PEN

by Howard Gould, W4NVF

Tis the season to be jolly and we all hope that someone remembers that we are ham radio operators and that come Christmas morning we will find some new toys under the tree to play with for another year. It is very strange about us hams when it comes to new radios and things that go with them. We never seem to be happy with what we have today and we are always looking for a good deal on a new piece of equipment to replace what is probably doing the same thing as what we want to replace it with, but that gives us a chance to sell our old stuff and give a brand new Ham or maybe an old timer a new life with our old equipment. Yes that is what keeps things going around, the making of new equipment by the manufacturers to keep our interest up and the selling off of the old equipment to give the ones that didn't get what we had in the first place a new lease on life. There have been improvements in the new equipment over the years especially in the receivers. With the band conditions being in the worst of shape, the manufacturers have spent a lot of time on receiver technology to a point where we now have some very hot receivers on the market and we sure could do with a better receiver right? Receivers set aside, there have also been improvements in the transmitters. They can now match your voice characteristics to the RF output and solid state devices being used can now handle very high current and run much cooler making

things last longer. So have at it folks and enjoy the new toys for Christmas.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to all the new members voted in at our last meeting who are helping GARS to grow. Our club is one of the largest in the metro Atlanta

Continued on Page 4

Junior, KE4VWN gets ready to trim the GARS Christmas tree.



The Night Before Christmas A Ham's way!

by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

Twas the night before Christmas
when all through the Shack,
! had just worked some DX and now
wanted a snack.

The stockings were hung by the
chimney with care,
The biggest one's were mine--in
fact--I hung a pair.

The children were nestled all snug in
their beds,
While visions of upgrading danced in
their heads.

And Mamma at the computer, and I
at my key,
Had just settled down to work some
DXCC.

When out on the lawn there arose
such a clatter,
I sprang from my rig to see what was
the matter.

Away to the window with HT in hand
What I saw next was ever so grand.

The moon, on the breast of the new-
fallen snow,
Gave a luster of midday to my an-
tenna's below.

When, what to my wandering eyes
should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and a 5/8
wave mounted on rear.

Continued on Page 2

Jim Flournoy, AK8E**GARS****HAM of the MONTH***by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S*

The GARS Ham of the Month this month is Jim Flournoy, AK8E. Jim is like most hams when asked to do the interview for these articles. He didn't think he would be a good subject. As you will see, this is another one of those GARS members that make this such a great club to be a part of.

Jim, like Carlton, WA4ZUW, is a rare find in that he was born and raised and educated in Georgia. Jim is originally from Decatur and went all the way through school there graduating from Decatur High School. He also spent several years at Emory University before going into the US Army during W.W.II.

Jim said that while he was growing up, he always had an interest in radio and electronics. He built the obligatory crystal set and later on Heath Kits and Allied Radio Knight kits. Like the writer, he originally was building audio equipment but was looking hard at the catalogs he received so also kept track of developments in amateur radio equipment. He even did some TV set work until they "got so complicated".

Another hobby actually helped Jim get through the war unscathed. He had been interested in photography and when he went into the army

he wound up in a photographic assignment. Jim reminded me that the reason he didn't become a rifleman or a truck driver was that his IQ tested above 115 so he got to go to a school.

Jim spent the war as a topographic photographer and was stationed in New Guinea and the Philippines before winding up with the occupational troops in Japan. He said that this turned out to be a plum of an assignment since all of the photographic chemicals had to be kept cool and they were able to chill there beer in the "hypo" solution. As those of you who are photographic buffs (especially Andy, KF4DAO), "hypo" is the "fixer" in the photo development process and probably gave the beer bottles (or cans) a pretty interesting aroma.

Jim finished up his schooling at Georgia State after he returned from the Army and received a degree in Business Administration. He took a position with a subsidiary of Proctor and Gamble and was a credit manager for most of his career. Most of this time he was living in Cincinnati. The subsidiary that Jim was with was responsible for acquiring cotton seed for use in the manufacture of other P&G products. Jim's company loaned money to the cotton seed producers and only asked for seed in return. (Sounds like the barter system.)

Jim really got serious about Amateur Radio in 1978 when a friend of his at GE talked him into attending a

novice class that was being conducted by the Queen City Amateur Radio Club in Cincinnati.

Jim and his friend did what I call a "Joe Biddle". They went from Novice to Extra in about a year. The Novice license came in February, 1978, the General in June, 1978, the Advanced in December, 1978 and the Extra in 1979. This was quite a feat in those days (and still is) and Jim has a newspaper article that was published at that time regarding this accomplishment. Jim's first call was WD8QYC "Quick Young Champion", followed by KB8GW "George Washington" and finally the AK8E (not much you can do with that). Jim says he kind of wishes that he had kept the GW call.

When I asked Jim what motivated him, he said that his friend was a big help, but the truth was that his wife, Mary, really got behind him and kept him going. Jim said that if it had not been for Mary, he would have never gotten by the Novice test.

Jim's first rig was a Kenwood, TS-520 (the best buy in the history of ham radio.). His first antenna was a multi-band, trap dipole. He later put up a 50 foot tower with one of the famous "Mini-Quads" on it. (the writer had the same antenna up in Chicago during the 1980's). Believe it or not, Jim said Mary helped him get the tower and beam up.

Jim retired in 1983 and moved back to Georgia where his son and daughter and five grandchildren

Continued on next page

Contact GARS**COMMITTEES, cont'd****OFFICERS 1995-1996**

President: W4NVF Howard Gould 921-8362
Vice Pres: KD4QFD Larry Osborne 381-5611
Secretary: KE4GYM Ike Chapman 339-8123
Treasurer: WA4QYY Charles Evans 448-0930
Activities: KA4KKF David Adcock 963-5767

COMMITTEES

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 AD4PZ Joe Biddle 963-4316
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 W4NVF Howie Gould 921-8362
 KA4EMV Bob DeVeau 923-3963
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Publicity:

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 W4WKP Johnny Fearon 466-4038

Rookie Radio:

AE4HN Cheryl McClure 995-5159

Field Day:**Ham Classes:**

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HF/VHF/UHF Awards Manager:

KE4GGP Don Ennest 923-4851

DXCC Awards Checker:

AF4Y Frank Deak 978-6546

Continued from Page 3
were. While Jim has had some fairly serious health problems lately, he still has a ham station installed and operating and he still uses it. His current equipment includes a Kenwood TS-440 and a stealth wire antenna in his attic. He also has a Cushcraft R5 vertical.

When asked for a couple of really interesting ham stories, Jim came up with two doozys.

The first involved a very active ham who lived in Covington, Kentucky, just across the river from Cincinnati. (that's where the airport is). This ham was actually an Elmer for Jim and was instrumental in his early success as a ham. This ham was also very well known in the Cincinnati area and also around the world as a premier DX chaser. Jim said that it was a real shock to him when he started coming to the GARS meetings when one night he recognized this friend of his from Cincinnati. It was Frank Deak, AF4Y. (small world isn't it?)

The other story involved a QSO that Jim had with a station in Sidney Australia. Jim was working VK2BLU, Bob Luther, one day and discovered that both of them had been stationed in New Guinea at the same time during the war. As a result of all the "fond?" memories that they enjoyed talking about, weekly skeds followed and they developed a fast friendship. As they ended their QSO's Jim would tell Bob that if he ever got to the states, to try and come through Atlanta and say hello. Jim said that the initial contact started out with difficulty because of his southern accent and Bob's Australian accent.

Sure enough, Jim was sitting at his desk at work one day and Mary called him and said that there was a guy with a funny accent at the Atlanta airport that wanted Jim to come pick him up. So Jim took the rest of the day off and he and Bob had lunch and dinner together and really enjoyed catching up on all their activities from the war years and all the years since. Bob spent several weeks traveling around the US visit-

ing with hams that he had met on the air.

Jim said that he thought the hams in the Queen City club in Cincinnati were an extra ordinarily great group of people but that he thinks that the present complement of members in GARS is even better. He says that he regrets that he can't take part in more of the GARS activities but just coming to the meetings and getting to talk to and know the members is a real advantage to him.

When asked what advice Jim had for new hams, his reply was: "Find your own MARY" and get going on the upgrade path because you will really miss out on a life time of fun if you don't. If you have not already met Jim, look him up at a club meeting and say hello to him. Him is representative of all of the fine hams in the club and brings a wonderful perspective to all of us who have had a chance to stop and talk to him.

♦♦♦

President's Pen from Page 1
area and we no longer are a backwoods small group of hams struggling to survive. You new members will be very interested in knowing that you have joined an active organization that strives to be helpful in every aspect of the ham radio hobby. We of-

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Welcome New GARS Members

by John Farr, KD6CLO

Fifteen new members were voted in at the November meeting!

Alan K. Adamson, NE1H
Harold W. Allison, KQ4HM
David Babulski, N4XVF
Ben Blumenfeld, KF4DVL
Tom Costello, K14WT
Randy Grunwell, KE4YZV
Olin (Tommy) Henson, KR4XT
James (Michael) Henson, KE4UAU
Thomas (Matt) Henson, KE4TFP
William Kaufman, WB4VHY
Chuck Mabry, N4W!JW
Aleck Poolos, WD4DXI
David Swain, WA4NAG
Darlene Swain, KC4NQS
Brian Vaceluke, KF4EEO

Associate Member

Welcome these new members at the next club meeting or on the air! -ED

♦♦♦

fer you help in any problem you are having with the hobby and we try to keep up your interest with good programs and outside activities. Feel at home with us and we strongly urge you to share your talents with us as we are always looking for new ideas and help in everything the club is involved in.

REPEATER NEWS

We have been busy over the past few weeks with the groups at Bogan Rd and Goshen Springs doing a super job of laying down some ground work for our future links. It warms the heart to see so many GARS members coming out of the woodwork to help out on these projects. Dave, AD4UU has taken the bull by the horns and has given good leadership to the Bogan Rd site and Jeff, KD4GPI has also been very active in leading the Goshen Springs site. We are way ahead today towards making this come together and a lot closer than we have ever been. Our Snellville site is still on the back burner and let me tell you that we have a security problem there that

Continued on Page 6

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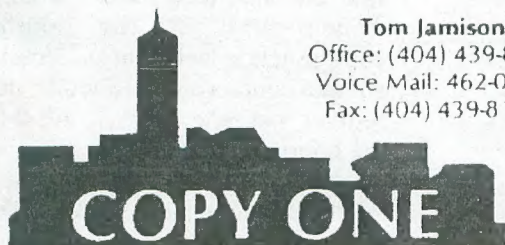
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**Monthly Club Meeting
November 16, 1995
Minutes**

In attendance: President Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Activities Manager David Adcock, KA4KKF

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 local time by President Gould at Captain Billy's Seafood House in Duluth.

All members and visitors were invited to introduce themselves with a total of 54 people signing the meeting log.

The minutes for the October meeting were approved as published in *The GARZETTE*.

There was not a treasurer's report due to the absence of the treasurer.

Members were reminded that the GARS Ham of the Year nominations were due by the end of tonight's meeting to any member of the executive committee.

David Livesay, AD4UU and Jeff Harrison, KD4GPI discussed the status of the remote receiver sites at Bogan Road and Goshen Springs Road respectively.

Cheryl McClure, AE4HN discussed Rookie Radio plans including a status report on Howie Lab II and an upcoming antenna workshop.

Kathy Baker, KE4YWF discussed the progress on the GARS/Alford Christmas party to be held on December 15.

John Farr, KD6CLO presented 15 new applications for membership in GARS. A motion was made and seconded to accept the applications as presented and passed without opposition. The new GARS members are: Alan K. Adamson, NE1H; Harold W. Allison, KQ4HM; David Babulski, N4XVF; Ben Blumenfeld, KF4DVL; Tom Costello, KI4WT; Randy Grunwell, KE4YZV; Olin (Tommy) Henson, KR4XT; James (Michael) Henson, KE4UAU; Thomas (Matt) Henson, KE4TFP; William Kaufman, WB4VHY; Chuck Mabry, N4WUW; Aleck Poolos, WD4DXI; David Swain, WA4NAG; Darlene Swain, KC4NQS; Brian Vace-luke, KF4EEO.

The meeting was then turned over to Don Button, AJ1T for a slide show and presentation on the test conducted at the Bogan Road remote receiver site.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:00 local time by President Gould.



Continued from Page 4
needs to be taken care of before any equipment is installed and we also have a contractor working at the site that will make things difficult until at least next May. We can now find some time to interface with the Mark 4 repeater our 440 link frequencies which we have to find by listening to one frequency at a time, then when we find our pairs, we can order the crystals. Eddie, WD4JEM and myself will interface a listening device on the Mark 4 for 440 and we will interface the Hall voter to the Mark 4 to handle the links. Finding the frequencies will not take long as we will only be listening for a few days at a time on each frequency being monitored. We have three 440 Hamtronics receivers, three 440 Hamtronics transmitters, and at least two good 2 meter receivers. The only thing missing in the link networks is the power supplies to run them which we can build from scratch with some of the components donated by Eddie, WD4JEM and the rest of the needed parts donated by other sources or purchased through suppliers. This would be an interesting project for some of you newcomers. Eddie has some surplus LM317 regulators for starters and the balance of parts would be an 18 volt transformer capable of handling a small 3 to 5 watt supply, a resistor or two and a capacitor or two plus a chassis. The supply must be capable of current limiting to no more than an amp or so. The alternative is to purchase a couple of small amperage supplies by Astron or others. We also are looking for some one who is good at being a finished carpenter to build a couple of

boxes for the gear with doors, etc., possibly out of plywood?. The antennas are installed at Bogan Rd for one link and we have one antenna installed at Goshen Springs for another link. We need to install a 440 antenna at Goshen Springs to complete that link. There is still some grounding to do and interfacing of lightning protection at both sites, but all this should be accomplished in a minimum time frame. As I have said, we are closer than we ever have been since the last attempt was made at running 3 sites by the past Repeater Committee before I was President. They did have 3 links on the air but had a lot of problems with them and they were all taken down. I am also not going to sit here and say that we will not have any problems with this system as anytime you have more than one system on the air, you invite problems namely in this arrangement of balanced audio, squelch tails, and ID. Meanwhile lets have at it and see what we can do.

MEETING PLACE CLOSES

Captain Billy's has closed his place of business without giving me a notice and if it were not for Jeff, KD4GPI, I would not have learned of it so soon. So folks, we are at base zero again and let me tell you that this is not a pleasant chore to do finding a meeting place. I am running out of resources for a place that is free and can handle our large group so I am leaving it up to the membership to come forward with a place to hold our meetings.

NEW MEETING PLACE FOR JAN. FEB, MARCH 96

I have lucked out again and found a place for our meetings which will be the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Center. We will have the large auditorium where the Commissioners have their open meetings. Meeting time is 7.30 PM. This is a temporary place good only through March. The club has three months to find me a place to meet as my resources have run out.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

It is getting close to that time again folks and you need to get in touch with Johnny, W4WKP or any Nominating Committee member to let them know who you would like to run for office. The nominations take place in January both from the Nominating Committee and the floor. This is very important, and must be looked at as a way for you to make sure that the club is kept solvent, that you have the leadership to see it through another year, and that each and every position of the five officers is considered in this club to be very, very, very, important. You will be expected to give up a lot of your important free time for Executive Meetings and club meetings and you must be prepared to make some tough decisions. The club is only as good as the membership makes it and this is your opportunity to share your talents with us. Further nominations will be taken from the floor in February and the elections will take place.

WEEKLY NETS STILL STRONG

Our weekly GARS net on Tuesday evenings at 8.00 PM with information on club news, want and swap items and code practice is doing quite well but still needs some volunteers to help run it as a Net Control and code practice Net Control. Volunteers should contact Jeff, KD4GPI for the regular net and Cheryl, AE4HN for the code practice net.

The Packet Users net on Wednesday evenings at 8.00 PM is also doing quite well with John, KD6CLO being the main Net Control. Participation is down but this net serves a purpose as do all information type nets do and is to be supported by the GARS as long as there

Continued on Page 8

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Roswell (about 2 1/2 miles North of Hol-
comb Br. Rd across from N. Fulton Hospi-
tal) Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30 PM

1st Thursday N.E. Ga ARC

Jefferson Civic Center, off Memorial Dr. to-
ward Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at
6:30PM. TI-147.225+

1st Thursday - Atlanta Radio Club
Kitteredge Magnet School, North Druid Hills
Rd. and Briarcliff. 6:00PM. Meeting is at
7:30PM TI-146.82-

2nd Wednesday

North Fulton Radio League
Cherokee Cattle Co., 11208 Alpharetta Hwy.
Dinner-6:00pm Meeting-7:30pm TI-145.47-

2nd Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club
Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at
6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. TI-146.76-

2nd Saturday - East Atlanta LAN
Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meet-
ing is at 10:00AM. TI-145.41-

3rd THURSDAY

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
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in Lawrenceville. Meeting begins at 7:30 in
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night net on the GARS repeater.

PACKET RADIO USERS NET

Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on the
GARS Repeater. 147.075 MHz

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Continued from Page 6
is interest. It is this interest that keeps us going folks so have at it.

PAUL WOLFE DONATIONS

At our last meeting I am proud to say that the GARS members in attendance graciously dug down in their pockets for Paul Wolfe's children so they might have a decent Christmas. The donations given to Peggy Wolfe were in the amount of \$232.00 which for the members that showed up was quite a nice gesture and made me proud to be part of it.

Paul, AD4NQ, had a serious accident that took his life when he fell from his tower and we all in the ham community felt the sorrow and loss of a husband and father to the Wolfe family. Thank you members for your kind thoughts and feelings. This was not a concentrated effort on the GARS to collect funds just a pass the hat collection. If you did not attend that meeting and you wish to contribute, we would be pleased to accept a donation from you and pass it on to the Wolfe family just drop it in the mail to GARS, P.O. Box 88, Lilburn, Ga 30226 attention Paul Wolfe children fund.

CODE CLASS STILL A SUCCESS

I understand the code class run by Duane, KD4KCR has been doing well and I know that all who have participated in that event are pleased that Duane has volunteered to keep this program alive and well.

NO CODE TECH CLASS

Again our own Steve, KA9UIE will be running a No Code Technician Class starting January 24, 1996 at Central Gwinnett High School. Steve has been doing this for a few years now and it is another plus for the GARS having a guy like Steve willing to give up his spare time for the GARS and the community service that he performs. Pass the word around so we can get some new hams into the club.

VE TESTING STILL GOING STRONG

As you know or should know, the GARS sponsors a W5YI-VEC testing session the fourth Friday of each month and if it were not for the devoted GARS VE's that show up at the

testing sessions that extra chance to get a license would not be available. It is also a perfect example of what we at the GARS do for the ham community. We are proud to support a way for any one to take a amateur radio test and we gain personal satisfaction of seeing those persons who pass the test walk away with big smiles on their faces and for those who don't pass we feel like we failed along with them. It is a great feeling to know you were part of history making as you see those who fail again and again finally make it and there is electricity in the air. If you have been considering becoming a VE, get in touch with me at the next meeting or send me an SASE for a application. We are accepting Extra down to General Class licensees applications.

I want to wish every member and family the warmest of Holiday greetings from the GARS. We hope that all our members and families will enjoy the richness of what this Christmas brings in the spirit of years gone by with the peace throughout most of the world having more meaning then all of our net worth. To be alive and well but giving our less fortunate neighbors a prayer for recovery, to open our hearts, our lives and our minds to those who are in need of our help. To use our radios for communicating with the world for the health and welfare of all human beings and to keep alive the spirit of ham radio by being creative, experiment with new ideas and radio spectrum. Push it to the limit so that all future amateurs will enjoy what we leave behind and be proud of us for what we accomplished in obtaining new frequencies, new modes of transmissions and receiving. The sky is the limit for all of us in this hobby.

Merry Christmas

73 Howie

W 4 N V F
Not Very Funny

♦♦♦

Rookie Radio Notes

by Cheryl McClure, AE4HN

Happy Holidays! HowieLab II is finally about to get off the ground. By the time this newsletter comes out it will be too late to join, but I'll let you know what you are missing. We have ordered the Wilderness Norcal 40A QRP Radio kit to assemble. This kit puts out about 2 Watts and all components are on one board so there is no wiring! N3FTU, Bob Smith, says that it goes together nice and easy. It only took him about 3 hours to finish his kit. He liked it so much that he is going to join us at HowieLab and put together another one. If this sounds like something you might like to do, let me know (995-5159) and I will put together another kit building class next year.

There is a no-code Tech class starting January 22, 1996 at Brookwood High School. The cost will be \$35 which includes supplies. If you've got a friend who needs a little help passing the test, this would be a great holiday gift!

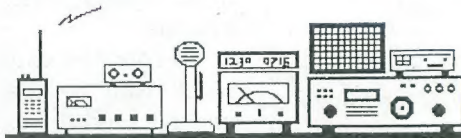
I have two people interested in an antenna workshop. We have room for a few more. Let me know soon if you would like to build a dipole or other antenna from scratch. It's really not that hard to do and you will gain knowledge and the satisfaction of saying, "I built it myself!"

I hope everyone has a great holiday and gets lots of new Ham gear for presents! See you in 1996.

♦♦♦

New Phone Number For
SA BBS
(770) 236-8792

This Old Shack



by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

Hopefully you enjoyed last month's chapter on Building Around The Shack and got some interesting ideas of ways you might put to use in your own shack. This month we'll look at power distribution in - Power for the Ham.

The readiness of the ham operator in an emergency situation is measured by the availability and adequacy of their power source. If your batteries are drained after just a few minutes of transmitting and you don't have any in reserve, then your hamming opportunity is over. But wait! With the click of a switch or the moving of a plug, you tap into another storage device that you saved back for just such an occasion. It could be your solar panel "Up on the Roof". It could be your riding lawnmower battery you put away for the winter. Or the batteries you taped together (BORROWED) from some of your kids toys.

The lead acid battery is one of the many ways hams choose to power their various rigs. It supplies many amp-hours of use and is easily recharged. Probably the best type of battery to use is the low discharge one like a Marine/RV or golf cart battery. These can be discharged to a much lower voltage without damage, unlike regular automobile batteries. There are many ways you can recharge them too. From a real basic unregulated unfiltered power source to highly regulated, highly filtered units - some having built in current sensing and timers. One good way would be to put your charger on a timer, similar to those used in security to turn your lamps on and off at defined intervals. That way it might be charged once or more a day for an hour or so each at your own preference. Your level of power

consumption will determine how much and for how long to apply the charging current.

Caution!! Whatever you do, make sure not to 'hard' charge these batteries full time. They also need to be kept in well ventilated areas for the gasses produced from charging to dissipate. And the fluid levels need to be kept up too.

Wall Warts - Those convenient little power sources that plug into the wall outlet and hangs from there like some growth or wart. There are different kinds on the market and varied degrees of quality too, choose wisely. Some may have all the appearances of a decent power source but put them under a load and the inadequate filtering lets AC ripple into your DC hungry HT or other device, giving you a HUMMMM-dinger of a noise source in your audio. So look for adequate current and voltage ratings on this type of "charger/power supply" before you fry...I mean "try" it on your device.

COMMERCIAL POWER

Danger! You ARE Conductive! With voltage potentials ranging from 120 to a few hundred, any current path through you to ground can kill you. All it takes is about 20 milliamperes of current - imagine, the current needed by one light emitting diode (LED) could get you. Be careful! Of course all electrical installations should be performed by qualified electricians. Even if they are not hams themselves, let them perform this for a lasting and safe installation.

There are many different kinds of plugs, jacks and pin configurations and some are associated to particular current load applications. You wouldn't want to plug your new rig into a standard 120VAC outlet only to find out that someone had wired 220VAC

to it. There are specific reasons for all of those wiring codes and specifications. One shack accessory I purchased a while back had a funny looking plug on it. I knew that 220VAC was the preferred potential to use. After consulting a electrician friend of mine and referring to the operating manual, I verified that the plug on the unit was correct for that 20 ampere preference. All I needed was the appropriate jack (outlet) and wire to it. One fellow ham just had 220VAC wired to his shack by an electrician to operate his amplifier. He discovered later however that the electrician had only run 120VAC to the 220 outlet. In this case no harm done except that the amp wasn't operational, but you can see where a little knowledge on your part might prove to be valuable. So keep in mind the possibilities and variations of the electrical world and keep safety above all else.

Some methods of power routing may even reduce any RF loops generated by your equipment. That is - run different lines from the main power distribution panel to different components of your shack for example: one to the outlet for your computer, one to your amp, and one to your radios.

If you are fortunate to have one of the better made power supplies on the market such as 'Astron' and you have ample current to meet the entire needs of your shack, then you could build yourself a simple power distribution contact strip. Out of a length of aluminum, Plexiglas or other such thin material. Drill out various holes to accommodate different jacks and power receptacles.

Continued on Page 10

Try Mobile HF'ing for a True Ham Experience

by Don Button, AJ1T

Many of us need to live in dense suburban or urban areas for family or job reasons. This usually puts a damper on our dreams of huge antennas on rolling estates, with the nearest neighbor miles away. Ahhh, we say, that dream QTH would have no city-induced QRN, interference complaints, or antenna restrictions!

You can choose your QTH quite nicely when you operate HF mobile, though. I have operated my Yaesu FT-900 for some months now from the back of our mini-van with an Out-backer Perth mobile antenna. It is still a thrill for me to find a quiet location, park, and fire up the rig on 17 meters. In most rural locations, the noise level in the receiver is so low that the S-meter doesn't move at all! Imagine the band sounding like that from a city condo! In fact, I can routinely copy CW signals which do not register at all on the S-meter. With virtually no man-made interference from nearby appliances, traffic, computers, and power lines of every description, the bands take on a whole new sound that is truly refreshing to the ears.

Of course, with a small mobile vertical antenna, you will not have a "rock crushing" signal. If you operate a contest, you will need to search out your contacts to a certain extent. However, the challenge can be refreshing, and it is surprising who you can work. During a recent contest weekend, I could quite easily work all over Europe on 20 meter CW, and I had several more European QSOs on 40 meter cw. Longest "worked" DX that weekend was Russia on 20 meters. Longest "heard" DX was a VK3 (S-6 on the meter) in Australia on 30 meter CW. Not bad from an 8 foot high mobile whip!

I should point out that I do not operate HF while I am driving. This might be fine on a fairly quiet interstate highway, but in Atlanta area traffic, I consider this too risky because of the distractions of tuning,

logging, etc. The rig stays on the table behind me, turned off. I find a good location first, and then stop to operate.

As for the exact locations I have used, with a little searching, many can be found. I avoid private property, of course, and I always search for a spot away from traffic. Nothing is more frustrating than to have the other station's signals virtually buried with ignition noise from a passing truck in the middle of a QSO! There are many county and state parks which are good locations. In particular, Fort Yargo State Park is excellent. Most of their electric utility lines run underground, and in many places, there are no power lines at all, and the resulting noise level on the bands is amazingly low. Also, there are a lot of new housing developments under construction in the local area which have new roads, often cul-de-sacs, that do not have any houses built on them at all. During weekends, there is usually no construction activity, and these areas usually offer very quiet operating locations. If you really want to get away from it all, I have visited Dawson County Forest several times. There are a few turn-outs from the main road through the forest, and there are no utilities, houses, or commercial buildings of any kind there. Now this is hamming at its finest - with a battery operated rig and no "man-made noise generators" for at least three miles in any direction, the bands sound "crystal clear" in a way I have not heard before. Also, Johns Creek Technology Park is a good location on Sundays when virtually no one is there, except for a few joggers and dog walkers. There are many shady spots in the woods that are very useful for a good operating location.

Occasionally, someone will walk near our van, and ask us what the big antenna is all about. We have had a few good laughs when my wife answers, "Oh, my husband is an amateur radio operator, and he is talking to someone in Germany right now." Usually, the bystander's jaw drops a full two inches as they gather their

thoughts and politely thank us for the explanation!

You may want to give it a try sometime. Each outing feels a little like Field Day, particularly when the bands are in good shape.



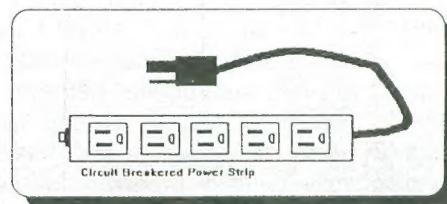
This Old Shack from Page 9

One I've seen had two cigarette lighter receptors, a couple 1/8" phone jacks, two or three plug type receptors for HT's and tape players, a couple Molex brand receptors for mobile rig hook up and finally the ever popular screw/banana post terminals for all else. And of course each terminal was plainly labeled for polarity and voltage. An inline fuse was also present at each jack for an appropriate amperage.

Power Protection - Many types of surge and lightning protection devices. MOV (Metal Oxide Varistors) are put across the power source so when a high voltage spike is detected these devices short circuit and help route those induced charges back to ground and visa-versa.

If you have an UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) backup power supply, then you have the confidence that if you lose power in the middle of some contacts or you are updating some of your computer logs, they won't be lost. The unit simply senses that the commercial power has stopped and then the UPS kicks in nearly instantly to provide continuous power to your key components.

Tip of the Month



Rather than overload one electrical outlet daunted with three-way breakouts, use a fused power strip. Some are even MOV protected and trip breaker. One I use has a lit switch for each outlet so I can switch some or all components out of the circuit should there be a need.



Program for January Meeting

By Johnny Fearon, W4WKP

I have been giving some thought as to what type of program to organize for the January meeting. Thanks to the assistance of David, KE4WSJ, I noticed that there are some hams living in Gwinnett county that have calls which originated from across the pond. For instance, there is a G3, from England, several J stations from Japan, a couple from Finland, one from Sweden, and several others. I am going to try and contact all of them by the January meeting and have them all prepared to stand up and tell us some of the conditions under which they have to operate in their countries. This will give us some appreciation for some of our rules. It should prove to be very interesting and we may pick up some future members. I have done some preparation on an antenna symposium, on January 13, 1996, at the Justice and Administration center, between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM. All antenna topics will be discussed, however, the emphasis will be on beams and quads. Some basic antenna theory will be covered at the beginning. There will be some lecture, followed by questions and discussion, and then more lecturing, if desired. I hope each and every one of you will be sure and invite your friends, no matter what club they are affiliated with or even if they aren't a part of a ham club. Of course, GARS is always looking for new members.

SKN FINAL NOTICE

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

The GARS Straight Key night round table will be conducted on ten meters at 8:00 p.m. on New Years eve this year. For you purists, that's 01:00 Zulu. The frequency will be 28.150 and the format will be a roundtable.

You might want to review the wonderful articles published this year by Duane, KD4KCR, to review how a CW roundtable works. We are committed to slowing down to the speed that will allow everyone who wants to take part in this fun event.

We have discarded the idea of two nets since there was more administrative effort involved that we really wanted. Someone needs to take notes and publish a follow-up article in the GARZETTE.

So sharpen up your CW skills, get your favorite key and transmitter going and join us on New Years eve. Remember, there will be a judging of keys and transmitters at the January meeting.

GL es CUL es CQ SKN.



By the way, did you know that the VHF group, the 4 Landers, have gotten their own club call? They are KE4ZPW. Also, congratulations to the Collins Hill Radio Club on their new club call, KF4DKK. Lets hope these club calls receive a good bit of use.

Notes From The Editor

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

This marks my third issue of *The GARZETTE* as editor and I'm happy to say the job has been getting easier with each one. One reason for this is the great support I've received from the club members in submittal of articles. In fact right now I still have several in the queue for future issues and believe me that is a great feeling.

But I still want to encourage each and everyone of you to write an article for the newsletter. As my mentor in this effort was fond of saying, everybody has something to write about with their experience in amateur radio.

I also want to preview what the future holds for *The GARZETTE*. Beginning in the January a new series will be starting that will review Part 97. We can also look forward to more installments of This Old Shack from AD4PZ, HOM from AD4S and the monthly words of wisdom from W4NVF. I will also be changing the look of *The GARZETTE* by moving the publication from AmiPro to Microsoft Publisher.

For all you net surfers out there, I also hope to take *The GARZETTE* online in 1996 on the World Wide Web. And speaking of net surfers, if you have an internet email address be sure to send me a message at ichapman@intergate.net so I can add you to the GARS email list.



Detach and Mail

GARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (SHORTER FORM)



Amateur Callsign: _____ Class: _____ Expires: ____/____/____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
 Name: _____ Home Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Work-Phone: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ Fax-Phone: _____

Additional members for Family Memberships:

CALLSIGN

CLASS (circle 1)

BIRTH DATE

ARRL Y/N

LIFE? Y/N

_____	_____	E A G T+ T N	____/____/____	[Y] [N]	[Y] [N]
_____	_____	E A G T+ T N	____/____/____	[Y] [N]	[Y] [N]
_____	_____	E A G T+ T N	____/____/____	[Y] [N]	[Y] [N]

Check Interests:

☐ -Class instruction ☐ -Field Day operation ☐ -Repeater maintenance ☐ -GARS club booth staffing ☐ -Community events ☐ -Emergency ☐ -Administrative ☐ -Fund raisers
☐ Other _____

Dues: April 1 to Sept 30

From Oct. 1 to Dec. 31:

From Jan 1 to March 31

Type of membership: ☐ -Individual ARRL Member?

Y/N _____

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships

\$12.50 for Individual Membership

\$6.25 for Individual Membership

☐ -Family Life?

Y/N _____

\$35.00 for Family Memberships

\$17.50 for Family Memberships

\$8.75 for Family Memberships

Half price dues available for seniors and students.

Mail your completed application with check made out to GARS to: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 88 Lilburn, Ga 30226



METRO AREA TEST SESSIONS

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI-VEC Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 623-9803
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road, Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758
Roswell ARRL-VEC St. Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM - George White, KN4NG 361-6850
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg. 7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM - Mike Mahaffey, AD4QB - 974-7710
First Presbyterian Church 183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM - Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759
Walton EMC 3645 - Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - Stn. Mtn. CA-VEC Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160
Stone Mountain Methodist Church - 5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319

4th Sunday - 2:30PM - N Atlanta ARRL/VEC - Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142
Episcopal Church of the Atonement - Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM QRV ARRL-VEC Shirley Durham, KR4KO - 949-9025
United Way Service Center - 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday GARS W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM - St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362 Headphones!

METRO AREA NETS AND ROUNDTABLES

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	Want Swap, Sell & Info - GARS
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	CW Practice Net - GARS
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	Packet Net - GARS
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC (1st Thurs = 9:30)
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	147.075+	8:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.



P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Ga 30226



GARS meeting will be at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center on Langely Street in Lawrenceville on the 3rd Thursday, January 18th. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM in the main auditorium. There will be no regular club meeting in December, see you at the GARS/Alford Christmas Party on 12/15.